

SCARBOROUGH, who have proved themselves one of the best teams outside the Football League by winning the F.A. Trophy for the past two seasons, are the visitors to Loakes Park tonight (Friday) when they meet Wycombe Wanderers in a friendly.

The Northern Premier League side failed to make it a hat-trick of successes this season, but the match will test Wycombe's status as one of the top non-league sides in the South.

It is ironic that this match takes place on the eve of this year's Trophy final between Altrincham and Leatherhead, which takes place at Wembley tomorrow.

Because of this final, Wanderers are without a fixture this weekend but they make up for it with five matches in successive days next week.

Monday: Blues travel to Barkings for their penultimate Isthmian League match of the season and one they must win to enhance their chances of taking the £300 third prize.

Tuesday: Another long journey for Wycombe who visit Banbury. The match could decide the outcome of the Shaw and Kilburn Floodlight League championship.

Wednesday: This time Wanderers are at home to Aylesbury United in another Shaw and Kilburn game.

Thursday: One of the conditions of Ian Pearson's signing at Millwall would be that The Lions would play Wycombe in a friendly at Loakes Park. This is the date for the game against the Football League Division Two side currently threatened with relegation.

Friday: Wycombe's last Isthmian League match of the season is at home to Sutton United.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	40	23	5	2	92	26	104
Dagenham	40	23	7	10	76	52	76
Wycombe	40	21	8	11	62	38	71
Tooting	39	20	8	11	59	46	68
Hitchin	39	19	9	11	67	51	66
Croydon	41	17	10	14	80	52	61
Sutton	38	17	10	11	60	63	61
Barnet	37	17	7	17	74	63	58
Weymouth	37	15	11	11	58	53	56
Hayes	41	15	11	15	48	52	56
Chesham	33	15	8	10	51	36	53
Canterbury	40	14	11	15	59	61	53
Reading	40	15	7	18	54	52	52
Woking	40	13	11	16	58	59	50
B'ham Wd	40	14	8	18	48	64	50
Staines	41	12	13	15	40	58	49
Slough	40	13	7	20	47	66	48
Tilbury	40	11	11	18	54	64	44
Kingston	42	9	13	21	43	65	37
Leamington	42	7	16	20	44	71	36
Southall	40	8	14	21	42	74	29
S'ford	40	7	8	25	34	76	29

WYCOMBE'S poor run of form continued on Tuesday night when they were held to a goalless draw by Walthamstow Avenue at Loakes Park. They have now taken just three Isthmian League points out of 12 in the last four home games and now may be lucky to cling on to third place in the Premier Division.

Their main problem is a severe shortage of goals. In the past eight hours of football, they have scored just twice, both times through Dylan Evans from close-in. It is a situation that must be remedied next season if the Blues are to stay up with the leaders.

Not all this shortage has been the fault of the

Wycombe Wanderers 0, Walthamstow Avenue 0 Report by MICHAEL KNOX

forwards. In past games the flow of possession from mid-field had dried up. But on Tuesday night, showing more zest than for some time they at least created some openings.

The first and best chance fell to Derek Harris in the opening minute. Evans, after good work on the left, crossed into the goalmouth but Harris miskicked with the goal at his mercy.

The most positive Wycombe player on the night was Jock Mackenzie, whose firm tackling and willingness to shoot played a major part in the side's attacking moves. He fired just over the bar in the opening

minutes and then saw a volley saved by goalkeeper Barry Willson.

However, Wycombe did not have matters all their own way in the first half and Walthamstow could quite easily have snatched the lead against the run of play.

Goalkeeper John Maskell dropped Barry Locke's cross at the feet of Derek Sedgwick, but luckily for the Blues the number nine could not make the most of his chance.

SIX CORNERS

The visitors forced six corners in the first half and after one of them had been half-cleared, the ball was pumped

back in. John Worrall, having evaded the off-side trap, headed wide with only Maskell to beat.

Evans went close with a good shot after a fine evasive run and Harris was just unable to turn in a cross from Mick Hollifield. So by half-time Blues had been unable to convert territorial advantage into goals.

The same pattern continued into the second half with Wycombe dictating the pace even more than they had in the first. This was because the defence had settled down after an uncertain start.

From the first corner after the break, Alan Phillips won the ball convincingly in the air but his direct header was cleared off the line.

Some of the most creative play round the edge of the Avenue penalty area came from the veteran Tony Horseman, whose close ball skills and intuitive passing were a lesson to his younger and less gifted colleagues.

One delightful flick ten minutes from time created an opening for Phillips, whose header brought an excellent save from Willson.

In the last minute Willson once again defied Wycombe, with a brilliant reaction save from a powerful header from John Priestley from the edge of the box. In better times this shot might have gone in but nothing seems to be breaking Wycombe's way at present.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, R. Strong, A. Phillips, J. Priestley, G. Mackenzie, M. Hollifield, D. Harris, D. Evans, A. Horseman (sub: H. Kennedy 81 mins).

WALTHAMSTOW: B. Willson; J. Webberley, B. Locke, J. Worrall, D. Wells, P. Sammons, B. Waider, V. Cotter, D. Sedgwick, A. Hunter, J. Lewis. Sub: S. Scudder (not used).

Referee: J. Martin (Alton).